

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

*Quarterly*  
*NEWS-LETTER*

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## THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

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FOUNDED IN 1912, The Book Club of California is a non-profit association of book-lovers and collectors who have a special interest in Pacific Coast history, literature and fine printing. Its chief aims are to further the interests of book collectors in the West and to promote an understanding and appreciation of fine books.

The Club is limited to six hundred members. When vacancies exist membership is open to all who are in sympathy with its aims and whose applications are approved by the Board of Directors. Regular Membership involves no responsibilities beyond payment of the annual dues of \$10.00. Dues date from the month of the member's election.

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### ADVERTISEMENT

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# Quarterly News-Letter

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U. S. A. : 1847

*James D. Hart*

WILLIAM MILLER'S PREACHING that the Day of Judgment would come to the United States in 1843 or 1844 had turned out to be very bad prophecy. The United States and its twenty million citizens were doing very well in 1847. The "Muslin for Ascension Robes" advertised by faithful Millerites wasn't put to its proper use after all. But Americans were on the move, even if not to Heaven. Their population center was as far out as the present West Virginia, and they were still expanding, fulfilling the "manifest destiny" that a lot of people talked about.

In far-off Mexico the nation brought to a successful end the military campaign against the neighbor that stood in the path of expansion. The year saw the addition of more territory to the United States than was included in the original thirteen states. The crop of new heroes included General Zachary Taylor, next year to be elected president on the strength of his military prowess; General Winfield Scott, the Army's leader who a couple of elections off was to be defeated for the job of Commander-in-Chief by his subaltern, General Franklin Pierce; and the younger man, Colonel Jefferson Davis.

The west was a common topic of conversation and the last campaign slogan of the Democrats—"fifty-four, forty, or fight"—was still remembered by many people, particularly the four or five thousand who emigrated to Oregon that year after President Polk's settlement of the issue. In California, Stockton, Kearney, and Frémont fought among themselves, but managed to end Mexican rule and to establish local government for the territory. Within the year 459 villagers codified and had printed as their first publication *The Laws of the Town of San Francisco*. Brigham Young's Mormon emigration finally settled beside the Great Salt Lake.

About a thousand steamboats plied the waters of the nearer west; competition brought cabin passage from Buffalo to Chicago down to a

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new low of eight dollars. The railroads were pushing out everywhere; the day of the canal system was passing. Cyrus McCormick's new Chicago factory was turning out more and more reapers, but the middle west still suffered a decade-old hangover of the Crisis of 1837, with continued bad prices for agricultural products.

Meanwhile, the potato famine in Ireland was bringing a flood of poverty-stricken emigrants to the Eastern seaboard. Labor was cheap. In the Massachusetts cotton mills women were earning from 50c to \$1.50 a week after they paid the company for board and lodging. At ordinary occupations men could earn about a half dollar a day and their keep, worth another thirty cents. In Ohio there was one domestic for every 1700 people; out in Iowa there were but ten house servants in the whole state. Of the half million white families in the South Atlantic region about a third owned slaves; only 28,000 had more than one. There were some 430,000 Negroes in the country, about half of them below the Mason-Dixon line. New Hampshire instituted a ten-hour work day for factories, but most people thought this quite radical. The laborer, said employers, would be happier with long hours to keep him from saloons and other places where he would but waste his money.

History might come to look upon the war, the west, and wages as salient subjects, but current conversation found other topics. Longfellow published *Evangeline* and three thousand miles west the remnants of the starving Donner Party were rescued. The sufferings of the Acadians roused more tears. There was a good deal of chit-chat about the use of the new anaesthetics for operations and the possibility of employing shorthand in business. Delaware was flirting with a state prohibition law. Children joined the Cold Water Army parades, chanting in high-pitched voices and with the superiority of the untempted:

*We, Cold Water Girls and Boys,  
Freely renounce the treacherous joys  
Of Brandy, Whiskey, Rum, and Gin;  
The Serpent's lure to death and sin:*

*Wine, Beer, and Cider, we detest,  
And thus we'll make our parents blest;  
'So here we pledge perpetual hate  
To all that can Intoxicate.'*

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Thoreau was writing out at Walden Pond and Parkman was describing his recent voyage along the Oregon Trail, but the public was reading English authors in pirated editions. Flamboyant historical romances sold well, as did lushly-bound "gift books" for display on the parlor table as tangible symbols of culture. Political preparations for next year's elections were gaudy and sectionalism was strong. In addition to the two big parties—Democratic and Whig—there were Free-Soilers opposed to extension of slavery into newly-acquired territory, Prohibitionists, Locofocos, and the radical Democrats, called Barnburners because their desire to destroy corporations to get rid of their evils was said to resemble the mythical Dutchman who burned his barn to clear it of rats.

The nation's metropolis was New York. It held almost a half million souls, some of them quite lost, for girls in high society were dancing the new polka. In low society behavior was far worse. As one poetic commentator observed, there were plenty of

*Those nice tableaux vivants  
Of beautiful young ladies, sans  
Both petticoats and pants.*

The more serious-minded turned for entertainment and edification to the phrenological parlors which made charts of the bumps on one's head, assaying one's personality and potentiality. Had any phrenologist attempted to read the bumps on the American mind produced by the year's events he would have found a rich and dizzy set of protuberances.

1847 was a wonderfully busy year. Its bequests to the nation ranged from the superb to the silly. Many of the legacies have long since been liquidated, but a century later the cultural treasury still includes the acquisition of California and Texas and the publication of Thoreau's *Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, the invention of breech-loading firearms and the appearance of a new-born babe named Jesse James, the issuance of Parkman's *Oregon Trail* and the first stirrings of the woman suffrage movement, the *Poems* of Emerson and the birth of Edison, as well as the development of the high-speed power press and the socio-philosophic theories which animated the transcendental Brook Farm and the Fourierist colonies. Even a century later the climate of ideas and events of 1847 obviously remains part of the heritage of 1947.

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## ONE HUNDRED INFLUENTIAL AMERICAN BOOKS

THE PAST FEW MONTHS have seen three notable additions to the lists of books that have served, and undoubtedly will continue to serve, to ignite many a bibliophilic argument. These have been the publication of Alice P. Hackett's *Fifty Years of Best Sellers*, the "One Hundred Famous Southern Books," exhibited at the Atlanta Book Fair in May 1946 and selected by a distinguished committee of eleven headed by Dr. Thomas H. English of Emory University, and "One Hundred Influential American Books, 1640-1900," exhibited at the Grolier Club from April 18 through June 15, 1946. Of these, the last is probably destined to be of the greatest influence.

The new Grolier Club list was in preparation for over a year by a committee composed of Mr. Carroll Wilson, Mr. Thomas W. Streeter and Mr. Frederick B. Adams. The conclusions of this committee found expression in the form of one hundred carefully prepared labels describing the books and estimating their influence on the American people. On the opening evening of the exhibit Mr. Adams undertook to defend the committee's selections and Mr. John T. Winterich appeared as critic. The list of titles included in the exhibit follows:

*Bay Psalm Book.* Cambridge, 1640.

WILLIAMS, ROGER, *The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution for Cause of Conscience.*  
London, 1644.

*Platform of Church Discipline.* Cambridge, 1649.

WIGGLESWORTH, MICHAEL, *Day of Doom.* Cambridge, 1662.

ROWLANDSON, MARY, *Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of.*  
Cambridge, 1682.

MATHER, COTTON, *Magnalia Christi Americana.* London, 1702.

WISE, JOHN, *Vindication of the Government of New England Churches.*  
Boston, 1717.

*New England Primer* (earliest known). Boston, 1727.

ZENGER, JOHN PETER, *Brief Narrative of the Case and Trial of.* New York, 1736.

FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN, *Experiments on Electricity.* London, 1751.

EDWARDS, JONATHAN, *Freedom of the Will.* Boston, 1754.

FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN, *Almanac for 1758.* Philadelphia, 1757.

DICKINSON, JOHN, *Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer.* Philadelphia, 1768.

PAINE, THOMAS, *Common Sense.* Philadelphia, 1776.

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*Declaration of Independence.* (Dunlap broadside.) Philadelphia, 1776.

WEBSTER, NOAH, *A Grammatical Institute.* Hartford, 1783.

*Northwest Territory Ordinance.* New York, 1787.

*Constitution, The.* Philadelphia, 1787.

HAMILTON, MADISON and JAY, *The Federalist.* New York, 1788.

*Bill of Rights, The.* New York, 1789.

FRANKLIN, BENJAMIN, *Autobiography.* Paris, 1791.

THOMAS, ROBERT, *Farmers' Almanac for 1793.* Boston, 1792.

ROWSON, MRS. SUSANNA, *Charlotte. A Tale of Truth.* Philadelphia, 1794.

WASHINGTON, GEORGE, *Farewell Address.* Philadelphia, 1796.

BOWDITCH, NATHANIEL, *The New American Practical Navigator.* Newburyport (Mass.), 1802.

MARSHALL, JOHN, *Marbury v. Madison.* Washington, 1804.

WEEMS, MASON, *Washington, 5th ("cherry tree")* ed. Augusta (Ga.), 1806.

IRVING, WASHINGTON, *A History of New York.* New York, 1809.

THOMAS, ISAIAH, *History of Printing in America.* Worcester, 1810.

LEWIS, MERIWETHER, and CLARK, WILLIAM, *History of the Expedition to the Pacific Ocean.* Philadelphia, 1814.

IRVING, WASHINGTON, *The Sketch Book.* New York, 1819-20.

BRYANT, WILLIAM CULLEN, *Poems.* Cambridge, 1821.

MONROE, JAMES, *Annual Message Dec. 2, 1823* (The Monroe Doctrine).  
Washington, 1823.

COOPER, JAMES F., *The Last of the Mohicans.* Philadelphia, 1826.

GOODRICH, SAMUEL, *Peter Parley's Tales About America.* Boston, 1827.

WEBSTER, NOAH, *An American Dictionary.* New York, 1828.

SMITH, JOSEPH, *The Book of Mormon.* Palmyra (N.Y.), 1830.

BEAUMONT, WILLIAM, *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice.*  
Plattsburg (N.Y.), 1833.

CROCKETT, DAVID, *Crockett Almanack for 1835.* Nashville (Tenn.), 1834.

SIMMS, WILLIAM GILMORE, *The Yemassee.* New York, 1835.

GRAY, ASA, *Elements of Botany.* New York, 1836.

McGUFFEY, WILLIAM, *The Eclectic First Reader.* Cincinnati, 1836.

HAWTHORNE, NATHANIEL, *Twice-Told Tales.* Boston, 1837.

EMERSON, RALPH WALDO, *American Scholar.* Boston, 1837.

DANA, RICHARD HENRY, JR., *Two Years Before the Mast.* New York, 1840.

AUDUBON, JOHN JAMES, *The Birds of America.* New York and Philadelphia, 1840-44.

EMERSON, RALPH WALDO, *Essays.* Boston, 1841-44.

LONGFELLOW, HENRY W., *Ballads.* Cambridge, 1842.

PREScott, WILLIAM, *History of the Conquest of Mexico.* New York, 1843.

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FREMONT, J. C., *Report on Exploration of Country Lying Between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains*. Washington, 1843.

HOLMES, OLIVER W., *The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever*. Boston, 1843.

MOORE, CLEMENT, *Poems* (with *The Night Before Christmas*). New York, 1844.

CUSHING, LUTHER, *Rules for Proceeding and Debate in Deliberative Assemblies*. Boston, 1845.

POE, EDGAR ALLAN, *Tales*. New York, 1845.

POE, EDGAR ALLAN, *The Raven, and Other Poems*. New York, 1845.

HERBERT, HARRY W., *The Warwick Woodlands*. Philadelphia, 1845.

LOWELL, JAMES RUSSELL, *The Bigelow Papers*. Cambridge, 1848.

PARKMAN, FRANCIS, JR., *The California and Oregon Trail*. New York, 1849.

HAWTHORNE, NATHANIEL, *The Scarlet Letter*. Boston, 1850.

MELVILLE, HERMAN, *Moby-Dick*. New York, 1851.

STOWE, HARRIET BEECHER, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Boston, 1852.

ARTHUR, TIMOTHY, *Ten Nights in a Bar Room*. Boston and Philadelphia, 1854.

THOREAU, HENRY, *Walden*. Boston, 1854.

LONGFELLOW, HENRY W., *The Song of Hiawatha*. Boston, 1855.

WHITMAN, WALT, *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, 1855.

BARTLETT, JOHN, *Familiar Quotations*. Cambridge, 1855.

BULFINCH, THOMAS, *The Age of Fable*. Boston, 1855.

TANEY, ROGER (and others), *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. Washington, 1857.

HOLMES, OLIVER W., *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*. Boston, 1858.

STEPHENS, ANNA, *Malaeska*. New York, 1860. (The first Beadle dime novel.)

*Emancipation Proclamation, The. Sept. 22, 1862*. Washington, 1862.

LINCOLN, ABRAHAM, *Gettysburg Address*. Washington, 1863.

WHITTIER, JOHN G., *Snow-bound*. Boston, 1866.

ALGER, HORATIO, JR., *Ragged Dick*. Boston, 1868.

ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY, *Little Women*. Boston, 1868.

HARTE, BRET, *The Luck of Roaring Camp*. Boston, 1870.

*First Mail-Order Catalogue*. Chicago, 1872.

EDDY, MARY BAKER, *Science and Health*. Boston, 1875.

CLEMENS, SAMUEL, *Tom Sawyer*. Hartford, 1876.

GREEN, ANNA KATHERINE, *Leavenworth Case*. New York, 1878.

GEORGE, HENRY, *Progress and Poverty*. San Francisco, 1879.

WALLACE, LEW, *Ben Hur*. New York, 1880.

HARRIS, JOEL C., *Uncle Remus*. New York, 1881.

HOLMES, OLIVER WENDELL, *The Common Law*. Boston, 1881.

JAMES, HENRY, *The Portrait of a Lady*. London, 1881.

LINCOLN, MARY, *Mrs. Lincoln's Boston Cook Book*. Boston, 1884.

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HOWELLS, WILLIAM DEAN, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*. Boston, 1885.

CLEMENS, SAMUEL, *Huckleberry Finn*. New York, 1885.

BURNETT, FRANCES H., *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. New York, 1886.

BELLAMY, EDWARD, *Looking Backward*. Boston, 1888.

MAHAN, ALFRED T., *The Influence of Sea Power on History*. Boston, 1890.

JAMES, WILLIAM, *Principles of Psychology*. New York, 1890.

DICKINSON, EMILY, *Poems*. Boston, 1890-91-96.

GARLAND, HAMLIN, *Main Travelled Roads*. Boston, 1891.

BIERCE, AMBROSE, *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians*. San Francisco, 1891.

TURNER, FREDERICK JACKSON, *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*. Madison (Wis.), 1893.

HOLT, LUTHER, *The Care and Feeding of Children*. New York, 1894.

CRANE, STEPHEN, *The Red Badge of Courage*. New York, 1895.

VEBLEN, THORSTEIN, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. New York, 1899.

MARKHAM, EDWIN, *The Man with the Hoe*. San Francisco, 1899.

### DE SOTO'S EXPLORATIONS

BY THE TIME THIS ISSUE of the News-Letter reaches them, members will have received an announcement of the Club's Christmas publication for 1946: the "Gentleman of Alvas's" *Narrative of the Explorations of Hernando De Soto*, magnificently printed by The Grabhorn Press in an edition of 275 copies.

The announcement contains a detailed description of the book. Here we shall content ourselves with a brief mention of some of its highlights. The De Soto narrative, setting forth the events that led to the discovery of the Mississippi River, is one of the great chronicles of early 16th century Spanish exploration of the continent. It was first published at Evora, Portugal, in 1557. The Club's edition is printed from the text translated by Buckingham Smith in 1866, to which has been added an informative and scholarly introduction by Dr. George Hammond, Director of the Bancroft Library at Berkeley.

In design and printing it is one of the handsomest books ever to bear the Club imprint. Hand-set in 18-point Franciscan type, and printed on French hand-made paper, the volume consists of 120 folio pages, size 13½ by 9¼ inches. The decorative scheme deserves a special word, consisting as it does of a series of forty-five large pictorial initials, designed by Mallette Dean and strikingly printed in reds, yellows and black.

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Because this work is notable alike for its typographical excellence and for its importance as an addition to Americana, an unusually heavy demand is anticipated. For that reason, members are urged to forward their orders (which are limited to one copy each) without delay. The price is \$27.50, plus 69c tax for sales in California.

### HAROLD MALLETT DEAN

*Jane Grabhorn*

MALLETT DEAN'S POSITION as one of the country's leading graphic artists has often been recognized by critics, art-juries, and by other people who have seen his frescoes, paintings or prints, or the books he has illustrated. But the decorative initials which he has done for the forthcoming edition of De Soto's *Discovery of Florida*, are so individual in design, carry such an air of distinction, and are so skillfully executed, that many collectors who have hitherto only wondered, will now demand to know more about this reflective, tall and smiling, rather extraordinary artist-craftsman.

H. Mallette Dean, as he signs himself, was born in Spokane, Washington, in 1907. After graduating from high school he worked in a Spokane bank and saved enough money to pay his tuition at the California School of Fine Arts, where he enrolled in 1927. He was awarded the Anne Bremer Scholarship and studied at the school for three-and-a-half years; during this period he believes that he was greatly influenced by Ray Boynton, with whom he studied mural decoration and fresco painting. He was then awarded a scholarship at the Art Students' League in New York City, but the depression made it impossible for him to live there. Unfortunately the scholarship was for the tuition only and did not include living expenses. So, in 1931, he returned to San Francisco.

During the next few years, he accomplished many things. He got married; he painted murals and frescoes for the Federal Art Project; made prints and drawings of important C.C.C. projects for the records; prospected for gold, and did not find any, although he says he had a very happy time; designed and built furniture; and illustrated books for the Grabhorn and Colt Presses, and for Doubleday Doran. During this period, he also won many prizes, the most significant of which were the Art Association Prize for *Moraga*, a wood engraving; the

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Artists' Fund Prize for *Richardson's Bay*, a linoleum cut of which one critic said that it approached "the dazzling in size and originality of design"—and another, that it elevated the linoleum cut to a new dignity. And in 1939, he won the coveted Mildred Boericke Prize for the best entry in the annual exhibit of American block prints. This prize is considered the most important block print award in the United States.

At present, Dean is living with his wife and two small daughters in Marin County, where in the basement of his house he has set up a small press on which he prints some of his own work from time to time. He works at the Grabhorn Press three days a week, and, in view of past performance, this alliance should certainly produce superb results.

### ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP

The following names have been added to the roll since the appearance of the Summer News-Letter:

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### ERRATA

The Summer issue of the *Quarterly News Letter* contained "A Check-List of Club Keepsakes, 1934-1946." The following are corrections to that check-list:

*Page 4, THE LETTERS OF WESTERN AUTHORS: 1935, add as the eleventh letter Edward Rowland Sill, Comment by Aurelia H. Reinhardt (The Eucalyptus Press).*

*Page 7, GUARDIANS OF THE PACIFIC: 1942, "Romance of the Sea by Henry Lawson" should read "Romance of the Swag by Henry Lawson."*

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## NEWS & REVIEWS

A RELATIVELY NEW printing arts magazine that apparently hopes to gain the position of the great pre-war German *Gebrauchsgraphik* and the French *Arts et Metiers Graphiques*, has been announced in Switzerland. It is called *Graphis* and is being published in three languages, English, French and German. It covers the complete field of the graphic arts from "Chinese Methods of Writing and Painting" "Book Illumination," "Stage Decorations," etc., to mention a few of the already published articles. It appears to be quite an elegant publication, capably edited and beautifully printed—and of course, expensive. For one year (6 copies) \$14; two years (12 copies) \$24—Amstutz & Herdeg Graphic Press, 45 Nuschelerstr, Zurich, or by special arrangement, Swiss Bank Corporation, 15 Nassau Street, New York 5, N. Y. (Postal money order only.)

## *Quarterly News-Letter*

Current book prices may have shocked or pleased you—particularly the apparent buying trend of books printed by the Grabhorn Press. And casting an appraising eye on your library, mentally you measured your “paper profits” on the Club’s publications that were printed by Edwin and Robert Grabhorn—and the feeling was good. And as suddenly, you are a shrewd and keen buyer but you have succumbed to the wiles of “collecting”?

Book buying has never been a gilt-edge investment—nor should it ever be. If a book is measured by its market value and not by its content or intrinsic value then you might as well own a collection of walking sticks or book matches. Finely printed books are not very different from a collection of superior paintings. And they give you the same delight—a pleasure to the eye, to the hand and to the mind. And like fine paintings, they will be your tomorrow’s heritage.

Quite happily the former editors of *Typography*, the exciting pre-war British quarterly on fine printing and bookmaking, announce the re-birth under another name—“*Alphabet & Image?*” (VOL. I, No. 1 of the first issue has been heavily oversold.) The editors very gracefully picked up the “pied forms” and the re-birth takes up pretty much where *Typography* left off in 1939—except for the price. Whereas the original quarterly sold for \$2 the year, the current revival is \$8. But then white shirts . . . *Alphabet & Image*, 58 Firth Street, Soho, London, W.1.

A new collectors’ club has been formed. It is the “Franklin D. Roosevelt Collectors’ Association” and will, as the name indicates, be composed of those concerned primarily with material by and about FDR. The officers of the new organization are: Donald Scott Carmichael, president; Frederick B. Adams, Jr., vice president; John Valentine, secretary-treasurer. The directors are Hon. Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture; Courtenay Barber, Jr.; Frank B. Howard and Della C. Koester. The publishing of a journal and of a yearly monograph on some phase of the late President and his times are among the present objectives. The journal will also devote space to bibliographical data and material relating to the collecting of books about Roosevelt and his writings. The address of the secretary-treasurer, John Valentine, is 16 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 2, Illinois.

## *The Book Club of California*

Recovery in the Bay Area of a portion of about two hundred and fifty rare books stolen from the Grosvenor Library, Buffalo, New York, more than six years ago created considerable interest among local book enthusiasts during the month of October. Included in the items stolen was a leaf from the Gutenberg Bible, a copy of Dard Hunter's *Papermaking by Hand in India*, and dozens of rare first editions, many bearing the bookplates of their original book-collector owners. The library first became aware of its loss in May 1940. Lists of the stolen books were circulated to book dealers and librarians throughout the United States. Nothing was heard of the stolen volumes until February of this year, when an investigator for the New York Public Library found two of the missing books in a New York shop. Investigation showed that the books had been purchased from a Chicago dealer, which clue was given to the FBI. The FBI followed the trail from Chicago to Peoria, Illinois, Cleveland and finally to Oakland and San Francisco. About one hundred and twenty-five of the volumes were located in Chicago. The identity of the thief was not disclosed by the FBI but a bit of detective work on the part of a special feature writer of the Buffalo *Evening News* revealed one Richard W. Hayford, a former Buffalo newspaperman, as the alleged thief. The FBI traced Hayford to San Francisco where he committed suicide a few hours before the government agents were able to make an arrest.

*The Pacific Spectator—A Journal of Interpretations* will make its appearance in January 1947. Projected as a quarterly, it is to be published by Stanford University Press. Miss Edith R. Mirrieles, professor emeritus of English at Stanford will be managing editor and Dr. John Dodds, dean of the Stanford School of the Humanities will serve as chairman of the editorial board, which consists of George R. Stewart, Dixon Wechter, Wallace Stegner and Louis B. Wright. The new quarterly is to be edited as a commentary on history—past and in the making—life and literature as well as social change. It is being sponsored, according to the advance announcement, by a group of twenty-one West Coast colleges and universities.

Charles D. Raymer, proprietor for over forty years of Raymer's Old Book Store in Seattle, recently ended over sixty-three years in the book business by selling his store to Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Chlarson.